

Central Board Minutes
Special Session
May 22, 1962

The meeting was called to order by President Ed Whitelaw in the Silver Bow Room. This meeting was in response to 111 signatures on a petition asking for a meeting to discuss the ~~current~~ resignation of a number of faculty members.

Carroll explained that the primary reasons for this meeting were that many students were worried about the faculty resignations and that there was also a possible danger of unjudicious action from some students. Carroll said that after talking to many of the faculty, he felt salaries were not the main problem, but a disintegrated morale. Whitelaw stated that as students we have little opportunity to really know what is going on, and that there is an additional problem since so many of the faculty who make comments and opinions refuse to let their names be published. Whitelaw gave several reasons he had been given by faculty members for their resignations, and said that although these might not represent the opinions of all, they seemed to be a consensus. First, Whitelaw stated, was a feeling that the administration had been "closed mouthed" with both the students and faculty, and that the faculty was unable to speak with the president directly, but rather had to go through a hierarchy. Also expressed was the feeling that the structure of the administration was more military like than it should be. Then too, was the expression that the faculty felt the bulk of the funds which were for "salary and personnel benefits" have gone to the administration almost entirely. Finally, stated Whitelaw, the faculty members that were contacted expressed the opinion that many of the senior members that were leaving felt that under Newburn the university was becoming different from the original type of institution of higher learning than it had formerly been, thus implying that the philosophy of education was being sacrificed. Whitelaw ended by saying that as students this was a problem with which we should be concerned since we should want to be sure that our \$5-7000 is buying a marketable quantity.

Chuck Hope asked whether the questioned faculty implied that the institution was developing into a "political football". Whitelaw answered that they implied the difference between a college and a university should be that a college teacher was required to teach only in his field; whereas in a university he would be a teacher not only in the classroom but should also be involved in research and other areas. At MSU, however, the teachers felt that there were too many limitations on this aspect, that their work loads had been increased, and that the lack of money had hindered their research work, etc. Carroll added that some spoke of what they termed as the "Golden Years" when all remarks and writings of the faculty, regardless of how controversial,

were always defended by the administration. Now, however, as demonstrated in the Schwartz case, there is a different attitude between the faculty and the administration; a censoring of articles is predominant and is felt to represent an attempt to appease the state legislature. Whitelaw interjected at this point that, as was stated in the Carter case, at no time should Central Board become an appellate for personal gripes. . . ?

Carroll stated that on the basis of the present faculty statements, without names, there was little action we could take. Carroll suggested the following resolution: In view of the current student concern due to faculty resignations we, the student government of Montana State University request that the Faculty Senate establish and facilitate a secret poll of the faculty, the purpose of this poll being to ascertain the feeling of the faculty on the following questions: 1. Do you feel that the administration is overly austere in its treatment of and communication with the faculty? 2. Do you feel that the administration has established a hierarchy which is incompetent and unwieldy? 3. Do you feel the administration has mismanaged the funds of MSU? 4. Do you feel the administration has failed to defend and promote the academic atmosphere and freedom of MSU to the State of Montana? Browman stated he felt this resolution was poorly stated in that the wording admits something is wrong and that the Board of Regents is incapable. BROWMAN MOVED THAT CENTRAL BOARD RESOLVE THAT PRESIDENT NEWBURN HOLD CONVOCATION FOR THE STUDENTS AT LEAST EVERY MONTH THROUGH THE ACADEMIC YEAR. SECONDED BY FULLER. Wallace said he felt this was a step in the right direction since it was indicating a direct line of communication with the President so that we might ask questions of him; for example, we might be able to discern why the administration spends so much refurbishing rooms and building garages when they might be donating money to the library. Whitelaw explained that a once-a-month meeting was a suggestion of Newburn's, but that he wanted them to be more informal. CARROLL MOVED TO AMEND BROWMAN'S MOTION BY ADDING THAT THESE MEETINGS BE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF CENTRAL BOARD WITH THE SECRETARY RECORDING THE MINUTES. SECONDED BY BERTELSON, AMENDMENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. MOTION (WITH AMENDMENT) PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Dr. Wren stated that the concern of the faculty over the "exodus" was one which they would look into through the faculty senate, and that some kind of study, whether formal or informal would be taken. Printer Bowler said that after looking into the problem and getting no response from the faculty, the Kaimin had decided to try promoting interest about the problem. Bowler went on to say that even after running these articles, there was still no answer from the "Room at the Top"; consequently, they felt they had failed. Abbott stated that he felt there had been comment from Main Hall in that the nature of the turnover had been discussed and the names of those resigning had been released; he added that he thought the move to establish better communication was a good one. Alan Morris said he thought the students should deal with the President of the Faculty Senate, but that they should

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remember that the faculty considers this their problem and is conducting its own investigation. BERTELSON MOVED TO ACCEPT CARROLL'S RESOLUTION TO GET A POLL TAKEN IN FACULTY SENATE. SECONDED BY BROWMAN. CARROLL MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION THAT CENTRAL BOARD ESTABLISH COMMITTEE TO ASSIST AND ADVISE THE FACULTY SENATE TO ESTABLISH THE NATURE OF THE POLL AND QUESTIONS TO APPEAR ON THE POLL, HE FURTHER MOVED THAT THE RESULTS OF THE POLL BE GIVEN TO CENTRAL BOARD UPON COMPLETION OF THE POLL. SECONDED BY ROBINSON. Browman explained that these were merely recommendations that the faculty senate work with the students in figuring up the poll questions. CARROLL MOVED TO TABLE THE MOTION UNTIL TOMORROW NIGHT. SECONDED BY COLE. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Dr. Livingston gave several reasons he felt to be of primary importance in the resignation of so many faculty members; the haste with which the administration censures the faculty for taking publicly unpopular views on public controversies; the personal incidents of late, as the Carter and the duMas cases; the cases where the faculty is told their chairman's evaluation with regard to promotions and salary increases can't be approved because someone feels he has a negative attitude or because he has a wrong political attitude; and the many infractions of the administration of the academic freedom. Furthermore, said Livingston, the faculty would like the President to openly state his plans for the University to the faculty; "he is going to make a University if there is any left to make one out of". Don Torgenrud said that the students were not concerned in the number of resigning teachers, but in the quality of them. Abbott stated he felt we should observe that Livingston's view was a partisan one and that he, as faculty, viewed the situation differently.

Carroll's motion to adjourn was seconded by Browman and passed unanimously. Carroll expressed hope that the interested would return on Wednesday night.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne M. Hassing
Joanne M. Hassing, ASMSU Sec.

ABSENT: MACDONALD

PRESENT: Bertelson, Bowler, B., Bowler, P., Browman, Carroll, Cole, Fuller, Hassing, Johnson, Schwanke, Robinson, Whitelaw, Woods, Tatsuyama, Wood, Wallace, Henry, Torgenrud, Robinson, R., Thomas, Hope, Abbott, Cogswell, Vinocur, Daly, Palmer, Everin, Murphy, Crowder, Anderson, Wren, Chaffey, Jones, Cushman, Johnson, J., Gallaher, Richards, Stenseth, Lee, Rudis, Cooper, Good, Bietz, Huntsberger